

Leicestershire County Council – March 2024 Report

Gigahubs - supercharging broadband in rural Leicestershire

Leicestershire County Council is working in partnership with the Government to provide more than 40 public buildings with access to high-speed connectivity.

The first 25 sites have now been completed thanks to £1.5 million of government funding. The sites span Leicestershire and include Lutterworth Library in Harborough district, Asfordby Hill Primary School in Melton, and Witherley C of E Primary School in Hinckley and Bosworth.

The installation of the first 25 GigaHubs allows residents in our rural communities to access the fastest broadband speeds on the market at their libraries and schools.

A further 18 sites are set to be completed by the end of March.

The completed locations near us are:

Desford Library

Lutterworth Library

Dunton Bassett Primary School

Ullesthorpe C Of E Primary School

Newbold Verdon Primary School

Desford Community Primary School

For an up-to-date map of completed and upcoming Gigahubs please visit [the digital leicestershire website](#).

Confirmed upcoming locations near us are below:

Croft C Of E Primary School

Manorfield C Of E Primary School

Sharnford C Of E Primary School

Sapcote Library

Stoney Stanton Library

Croft County Council office

Residents urged to apply for free energy efficiency measures – and reduce fuel bills

The Home Upgrade Grant funding is available to homes without mains gas as their main heating type, in priority neighbourhood postcodes, and more widely where the annual household income is below £31,000, or where a member of the household receives certain means-tested benefits.

The funding will also identify opportunities to support the Swift Action for Swifts project, which offers bird boxes and bird callers to suitable homes which receive energy efficiency measures.

Funding is available to homeowners and private tenants of landlords with small property portfolios.

For more information on the grants, including the full eligibility criteria, eligible postcode areas or to apply, visit our [Home Upgrade Grant website](#), or call YES Energy Solutions on 03309 126 199.

Supported lodgings offer over 16s spare rooms in safe and supportive homes to help them become independent adults

A woman who opened-up her home to young adults in need of a place to live is encouraging others to join her in becoming a 'supported lodgings' host.

She's backing a Leicestershire County Council campaign to recruit individuals or families to offer over 16s spare rooms in safe and supportive homes to help them become independent adults.

Supported lodgings isn't the same as foster care, this is a more of a supportive role for older young people starting to lead their own lives. The main requirement is to have a spare bedroom.

More on becoming a Supported Lodgings Host is available on our [Supported Lodgings Hosts page](#).

Major broadband upgrade to benefit thousands of rural homes and businesses

Lightning-fast broadband will be delivered to tens of thousands of Leicestershire and Warwickshire homes and businesses after a £71 million contract was signed under the government's national Project Gigabit rollout.

Independent broadband provider Cityfibre will deliver top-of-the-range full fibre connections to around 38,000 rural premises in the counties.

Full fibre is capable of delivering speeds of up to 1,000 megabits (or one gigabit) per second - up to 30 times faster than superfast connections which rely on traditional copper cables.

Now the contract is signed, Cityfibre will begin detailed surveying work with spades expected to enter the ground from the summer.

Government transport cash welcomed

£238 million has been awarded to Leicestershire from the Government's Local Transport Fund which is available over a seven-year period from 2025/26. Detail awaited.

Leicestershire scoops official VisitEngland partnership status

The Place Marketing team for Leicester and Leicestershire, which delivers Visit Leicester, has been awarded Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) status by VisitEngland, the national tourism agency.

This official national recognition as one of the country's leading destination management organisations will enable the Place Marketing team to work more closely with other nationally and regionally accredited LVEPs, and further raise the profile of the city and county as national visitor destinations.

Communities impacted by recent flooding are being supported through a series of drop-in events.

Residents and businesses affected by flooding will be able to talk to key agencies about their experience, get advice on how to be prepared against further flooding, as well as find out what is being done to help the community recover.

Representatives from Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency, district and borough councils, water companies and other organisations will be present at the events.

The first drop-in event - in a series of five - will take place at Loughborough Town Hall on Wednesday, 28 February from 2pm-7pm. There will be further events in Blaby, Melton and Syston. Find out more [on the webpage](#). **BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH AND ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH**

While these events have been organised with the worst-hit communities in mind, they are open to all members of the public.

Around 650 homes were flooded across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland during storm Henk, with 70 roads closed and over 100 incidents attended by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

Flood-hit householders and businesses can now also apply for Government funding to help them get back on their feet following Storm Henk.

The county council will also soon be announcing details on how to apply for a property flood resilience grant.

Have your say on updated proposals for waste sites

From 21 February, people can have their say on plans to scale back proposed waste site savings, including proposals to keep locations at Shepshed and Market Harborough open.

The revised proposals include:

Keeping Market Harborough waste site open three days a week

Kibworth waste site to open four days a week, instead of five days

Keeping Shepshed waste site open two days a week

These plans would ensure there was a seven-day opening between Market Harborough and Kibworth sites. To keep both sites open part-time, the council will need to reduce the opening of Kibworth by a day.

The new consultation is open until Wednesday 20 March and can be found on our [Have Your Say page](#).